7th May 1954]

(*b*) whether any memorandum was submitted to him by the mirasdars of Tanjore district;

(*c*) if so, the contents of the memorandum; and

(*d*) the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) No, Sir.

" (*c*) & (*d*) Do not arise."

Medical aid to the people of Agathi Island.

* 567 *Q.*—SRI A. APPU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any report that dysentery is prevalent in Agathi Island where there is no medical aid; and

(*b*) if so, what action the Government have taken in the matter?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The Medical Officer attached to the Government Dispensary, Kavarathy Island was immediately asked to proceed to Agathi Island. He was not able to do so as the wind was not favourable. However he reached Agathy Island on 24th March 1954 and camped there till 29th March 1954. Soon after an Assistant Surgeon who was specially sent to Agathy Island by a specially chartered ship with the necessary medical aid, landed on the Island on 4th April 1954 and undertook relief work."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I know how many casualties were there before the medical officer reached the Island? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" According to the Medical Officer who went there, he said there could not have been more than 20 genuine cases of dysentery at the time."

SRI K. M. SEETHI SAHIB :—" May I know, Sir, whether there are any hospitals in the Island and if so how many and in which Islands they are situated? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There are about five doctors in the Laccadive and Amindivi Islands."

SRI V. C. PALANISAMI GOUNDER :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister for Public Health has ever visited the island? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I had no occasion to visit the island. The Hon. Minister for Revenue was proposing to go there but he did not go."

SRI KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" Sir, is it a fact that a large number of deaths took place before the doctors arrived there and rendered help to the suffering people there? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I am not aware of the number of deaths that took place there. I have already informed the House what the Doctor who went from Kavarthi to the Agathi Islands reported."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, since these islands are altogether helpless in the matter of medical aid, would the Hon. Minister make a visit to the Island with a team of doctors and settle them there and return himself? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, I have already said that five doctors have been sent to the island by a specially chartered naval ship got from the Government of India."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, are there any dispensaries in the islands without doctors? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, there are doctors and dispensaries also."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" What is the population of the islands which are good many in number, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have no information. I must look into the census report."

Absorption of the Prohibition staff in the Police Department.

* 568 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Prohibition Inspectors and Deputy Superintendents in the City of Madras;

(*b*) whether they will be absorbed in the Police or any other department; and

(*c*) if they are absorbed in the Police Department whether they will be sent for training to the Police Training College, Vellore?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) The number of Inspectors of Excise and Prohibition employed in Madras City is six. There are no Deputy Superintendents in the Excise and Prohibition Department.

" (*b*) & (*c*) These questions are at present under the consideration of the Government."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" எற்கனவே வேலூர் போலீஸ் டிரெயினிங் காலேஜிலிருந்து எத்தனே புரொகிபிஷன் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்கள் பயிற்சி பெற்று இருக்கிருர்கள் என்பதை அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The question is under the consideration of the Government, Sir."